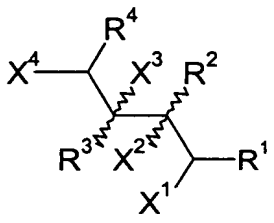
Removal of horny substances from hides of dead animals

Abstract

horny substances are removed from hides of dead animals by a process wherein the hides of dead animals are treated with at least one substance of the formula I



I

or at least one corresponding alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium or phosphonium salt,

where

R^1 and R^4 are identical or different and are selected from hydrogen, C_6-C_{14}-aryl and C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more SH or OH groups,

R^2 and R^3 are identical or different and are selected from hydrogen, C_6-C_{14}-aryl and C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more SH or OH groups, at least one radical R^2 or R^3 not being hydrogen or R^1 and R^4 not being hydrogen, and it being possible in each case for two vicinal radicals R^1 to R^4 together to be C_3-C_{10}-alkylene,

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, H-C=O or C_1-C_4-alkyl-C=O,

X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 are selected from OH, SH and NHR^5, where, if R^1 to R^4 contain at least one sulfur atom, at least one radical X^1 to X^4 is SH, and, if R^1 to R^4 contain no sulfur atom, at least two radicals X^1 to X^4 are SH.